

JOSEPH B. VAN BERGEN, the head of the Van Bergen Company, Limited, one of the leading manufacturing enterprises of Carbondale, was born in Bainbridge, Chenango County, N. Y., February 28, 1828. His father, who was born in Catskill, Greene County, N. Y., in July, 1800, engaged in the mercantile business in Bainbridge until 1832, when he came to Carbondale and began as a merchant and in the lumber business. After four years, however, he removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was interested in the lumber trade until 1858. From that place he went to New York City, afterward to Newark, N. J., and until his death, in 1877, was connected with the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company as sales agent. He was a man of business ability, strict integrity and firm religious belief, and for many years was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church.

As the name indicates, the Van Bergen family originated in Holland. Its representatives were among the earliest settlers along the Hudson River in New York, and from that day to this they have been known as honorable, energetic people, a credit to any community in which they may reside. The grandfather of our subject, William Van Bergen, was a native of Catskill, N. Y., and kept the first hotel in the now famous Catskill Mountain region, where he remained until his death. He was a regular attendant at the Dutch Reformed Church. His two sons were Henry, our subject's father, and J. Champ-
lin, who was associated with his father in the hotel business, and spent his entire life in the Catskill region.

The mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Emma L. Benjamin, was born in South Egremont, Berkshire County, Mass., in 1800, and died in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1839. Her brother, Joseph Benjamin, for whom our subject was named, engaged in the foundry and mercantile business in Carbondale for many years, and after retiring from active labors went to New York City, where he died. At the time of his demise he had interests in Carbondale and Scranton. Our subject and his sister, Catherine, are the only survivors of five children by their father's first marriage. By the second marriage there were four children, of whom the sole survivor is the wife of George H. Newell, a lumber merchant in New York City.

In the schools of Cincinnati and at Marietta College, Ohio, the subject of this sketch received a good education. From 1846 until 1850 he was a clerk in Laurel, Ind., where his father had business interests, but in the latter year he returned to Cincinnati and entered the insurance business with Samuel E. Mack. In 1856 he went to Davenport, Iowa, and was engaged in business for two years, but returned to Cincinnati and accepted a position tendered him in the Ohio Valley Bank. January 1, 1860, he became a partner in the foundry and machine works with J. Benjamin & Co. in Carbondale. Out of that then small business the great establishment that bears his name has grown, and for thirty-six years he has been the leading factor in its management.

Aside from business affairs, Mr. Van Bergen is interested in matters affecting the welfare of the city, and has filled many positions of trust. For eleven years he was a member of the board of education, for some time served as a member of the city council and for four years was mayor. In 1863, 1864 and 1865 he was deputy collector of United States Internal Revenue for the Twelfth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. In 1876 he was a delegate to the national Republican convention that nominated Hayes for the presidency. He was elected treasurer of Lackawanna County in 1886, and served for one term. In the Republican party he is an active worker. He is a Knight Templar Mason, was master of the blue lodge, high priest of the chapter and commander of the Knights Templar. In the Order of Odd Fellows he is a past chief patriarch. In religious belief he is a Presbyterian.

In October, 1851, Mr. Van Bergen married Miss Mary F. Boal, daughter of a retired merchant of Cincinnati. They had five children, but three died in infancy, and two sons are now living. Robert B., who is married and has one child, is interested with his father in business. Henry graduated from Hackettstown Collegiate Institute and the Homeopathic Medical College of New York. The mother of these children died in June, 1888, and in August, 1890, Mr. Van Bergen married Mary Helen, daughter of James and Mary Dickson, and widow of the late Andrew Watt. In addition to his business, Mr. Van Bergen is interested in many of the local enterprises, being president of the Crystal Lake Water Company that furnishes the city